

Appln. No.: 10/724,842
Amendment Dated December 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 13, 2004

RSM-100US

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1, 3, 5C, 6A, 6B, 7A, 8, 9 and 10A. These sheets replace the original sheets.

Attachment

Remarks/Arguments:

Specification:

As requested at page 2 of the Office Action, applicant has now amended the specification, so that it is consistent with the figures.

Drawings:

FIGS. 1, 3, 5C, 6B, 7A, 8, 9 and 10A have been objected-to, because the dielectric material in cross-section needs to be properly cross-hatched. Applicant has now amended these figures so that the dielectric material in cross-section is properly cross-hatched with alternating thick and thin lines.

As requested, FIG. 6a has been corrected by changing the figure number to "6A".

The Office Action requested that FIGS. 7 and 10A be referenced with the legend "50". Applicant respectfully submits that the legend "50" is shown in FIG. 5C as one embodiment of the invention. This one embodiment may not necessarily be the same as the embodiments shown in FIGS. 7 and 10A.

FIG. 8 has been amended by adding the legend "58b", as requested. The legend "94" (shown in FIG. 6A) has been omitted in FIG. 8, because applicant believes that it would add confusion to FIG. 8. The legend 94 is more clearly shown in FIG. 6A.

As requested, applicant has labeled each substitute sheet as a "replacement sheet".

Claim Objections:

As requested, applicant has now amended claims 4, 5 and 8 by replacing "coax" with -- coaxial --.

As request claims 9, 10, 11, 19, 20 and 21 have been amended to include the word "respective" and the word "corresponding" where appropriate.

Section 103 Rejections:

Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19, 20 and 21 have been rejected as being obvious in view of Loi and Brumbelow. Applicant respectfully submits that these rejections are overcome for the reasons set forth below.

Amended claim 1 now includes features which are not suggested by the cited references, namely:

- an iris having the **stationary** probe disposed therein **fixedly** coupled between the two resonators;

- the **stationary** probe having a transverse opening for receiving a **moveable** tuning conductor,
- the **moveable** tuning conductor provides adjustable coupling between the two resonators.

As described in the specification and, for example, shown in FIG. 6B, stationary probe 76 couples two resonators (not shown in FIG. 6B). Stationary probe 76 has a transverse opening for receiving moveable tuning conductor 72. The stationary probe 76 is **fixed** between the two resonators; tuning conductor 72 is **moveable** through the fixed, stationary probe, so that it may provide adjustable coupling between the two resonators.

Loi discloses two resonator cavities (12, 14) having an adjustable coupling mechanism (10) that includes a filament (34), as shown in FIG. 3. The filament (34) may be moved up or down, by way of screws 28 and 29. Loi, however, does **not** disclose a **stationary filament (probe)** that is **fixedly coupled between two resonators**. Moreover, Loi does **not** disclose a **moveable tuning conductor** that is transversely received by the stationary probe.

Brumbelow discloses a probe rod (20) coupled to resonating rods (7, 11), as shown in FIG. 1. Brumbelow, however, does **not** disclose a **tunable conductor that is moveable** and received transversely by a **stationary probe that is fixedly coupled between two resonators**.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither Loi, nor Brumbelow discloses the features of amended claim 1, namely **(1) a stationary probe fixedly coupled between two resonators and (2) a moveable tuning conductor that is transversely received by the stationary probe**. Favorable reconsideration is requested for amended claim 1.

Although not the same, claim 15 has been amended to include features similar to amended claim 1. Amended claim 15 is, therefore, not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for the same reasons set forth for amended claim 1.

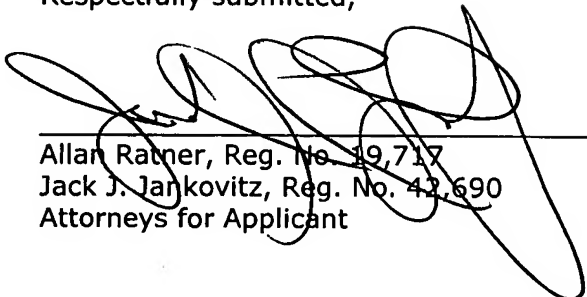
Dependent claims 2-14 depend from amended claim 1 and are, therefore, not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for at least the same reasons set forth for amended claim 1.

Dependent claims 16-21 depend from amended claim 15 and are, therefore, also not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for at least the same reasons set forth for amended claim 15 (as described for amended claim 1).

Conclusion

Claims 1-21 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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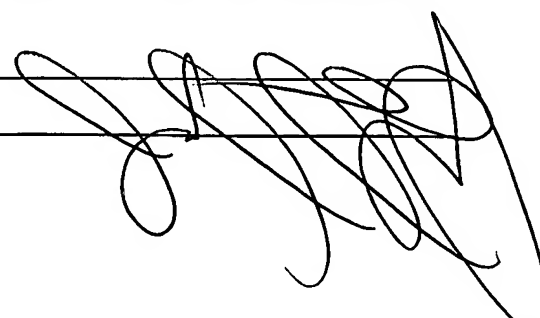
Attachments: Figures 1, 3, 5C, 6A, 6B, 7A, 8, 9 and 10A (9 sheets)

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